

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
(KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, KS)
28 April 1980

Academic Groups and Senate Panel Weigh CIA's Activities on Campuses

WASHINGTON

Members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence met privately last week with representatives of the American Association of University Professors and other academic groups to try to work out details of a controversial new charter for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Backstage negotiations focused mainly on the use of scholars and academic organizations as "covers" for the C.I.A.'s secret operations.

Bills pending before the Senate and the House of Representatives would restrict covert operations on campuses but would continue the controversial policy of allowing "voluntary contacts" and "voluntary exchange of information" between individual faculty members and intelligence agents.

The A.A.U.P. argued that secret ex-

changes between scholars and agents threatened to undermine the "integrity" of academic scholarship.

"The [Senate] committee does not seem willing to go as far as we want," said Alfred D. Sumberg, the A.A.U.P.'s director of government relations, "but at least it's taking a step in the right direction."

'Independence and Integrity'

Association officials have drafted compromise language, which they hope the Senate will accept, urging Congress to protect the "independence and integrity" of academic institutions.

Their proposal would require the President to issue specific guidelines to insure such protection.

Because scholars have not agreed on how restrictive those guidelines should be, the Senate committee has

so far refused to define the acceptable limits of C.I.A. activities on campus.

Many scholars are united, however, in their objections to another provision in the proposed charter, which would free the C.I.A. from requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, the federal law that gives the public limited access to government documents.

Warning that such exemptions could virtually destroy the writing of modern diplomatic history, university scholars told a House intelligence committee last week that lawmakers should rewrite the sections of the charter dealing with the information act.

The Department of Justice has questioned the legality of applying the exemption to one federal agency, but not to others.

—A.C.R.